



# Cranberry



## History

Cranberries are a fruit that is native to North America. They were used by Native Americans for food, clothing dye, and medicine. Europeans named the fruit "crane berry" because they thought the blossom looked like the head of a sandhill crane.

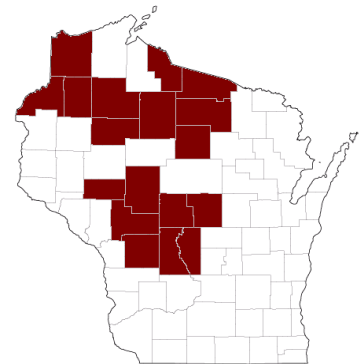
In 1816, Captain Henry Hall of Massachusetts became the first to cultivate cranberries. Massachusetts has been producing cranberries ever since. In 1860, Edward Sacket harvested cranberries for the first time in Wisconsin near Berlin. Cranberries are now grown in 18 different counties throughout central and northern Wisconsin.

## Growing Season

Cranberries don't grow in water but on vines in specially designed cranberry bogs. The bog is made up of layers of clay, gravel, peat, and sand. The growing season starts in the winter. Farmers flood the cranberry bogs so a layer of ice forms on the top. This prevents the cranberry vine from being damaged by frost. In the spring, the snow and ice melt and water is poured out of the bogs. The vines begin to flower and by July the green fruits develop. The sun ripens the cranberries and turns them red. Cranberry bogs are flooded in September and October and the berries float to the top of the bog for harvesting.

## Fun facts

- The cranberry is the state fruit of Wisconsin
- Cranberries are sometimes called *bounce berries* because they bounce when ripe
- Sailors and whalers brought cranberries on board to prevent the development of scurvy
- Wisconsin is the leading cranberry producer
- Cranberries are used as ingredients in over 1,000 food and beverage products
- Only 5% of Wisconsin's cranberry crop is sold as fresh berries



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